

1260360 Sgt Norman Gorfunkle

(Observer)

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve



No 76 Sqn

Royal Air Force Bomber Command



Operation No 1

08th - 09th September 1942: Halifax Mk II BB189 MP-H

This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by Handley-Page Ltd, Cricklewood & Radlett.

The crew were amongst Six 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Frankfurt. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Middleton St. George, County Durham was 2022 Hrs.

The target was identified by the river and was in bombsight at time of release. Bursts were observed all around the target area/ Glow of fires reflected in cloud and intensified as aircraft left the target area. Intense Flak was encountered.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>Sgt G. Thom RCAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt H.J.R. White</i>
<i>Observer</i>	<i>Sgt N. Gorfunkle</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt D.J.P. McBride RNZAF</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt R. Douglas</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt D. Reed</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Middleton St. George, County Durham was 0235 Hrs.

249 Bomber Command aircraft of five types took part in this Op. 2 Halifax's and 5 Wellington's were lost.

The PFF were unable to locate the target with accuracy, as a result the majority of the bombs fell outside the South Western edge of the city. The adjacent town of Russelheim, some fifteen miles distant was inadvertently also attacked by a small number of aircraft.

Four 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. One aircraft, Halifax, R9365 MP-C returned early with U/S Bomb Gear. Twenty minutes after departure, Halifax W1228 MP-A suffered an in-flight premature ignition of the Photo Flash, swiftly followed by a violent explosion. Aircraft wreckage fell over a wide area centred on the village of Haltby, 4 miles E of York, North Yorkshire, with the loss of all seven crew.

At the subsequent Board of Enquiry, it was concluded the practise of putting Photo Flash flares in Bomb Bays should be discontinued with immediate effect.



Operation No 2

10th - 11th September 1942: Halifax Mk II BB189 MP-H

This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by Handley-Page Ltd, Cricklewood & Radlett.

The crew were amongst Five 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Dusseldorf. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Linton on Ouse, North Yorkshire was 2009 Hrs.

The target was identified by the Railways and Docks through the smoke of already burning fires. Flares were very accurate and large fires were seen scattered across the entire target area. Defences were intense and Searchlights were increasingly active.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>Sgt G. Thom RCAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt H.J.R. White</i>
<i>Observer</i>	<i>Sgt N. Gorfunkle</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt D.J.P. McBride RNZAF</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt R. Douglas</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt A. Moffat</i>

479 Bomber Command aircraft; 59 Halifax's, 89 Lancaster's, 28 Hampden's, 47 Stirling's, 242 Wellington's and 14 Whitley's took part in this Op. 3 Halifax's, 5 Lancaster's, 1 Hampden, 4 Stirling's and 20 Wellington's were lost.

The PFF successfully marked the target and most parts of the city, except for the northern districts were hit. 39 Industrial Firms in Dusseldorf ceased production for varying periods of time as a result. The neighbouring town of Nuess was also bombed as well. 132 people were killed.

Five 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target and all returned safely to base.



Operation No 3

02nd – 03rd October 1942: Halifax Mk II DT515 MP-T

This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by the English Electric Company, Salmesbury, Preston, Lancashire.

The crew were amongst five 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Krefeld. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Linton on Ouse, North Yorkshire was 1832 Hrs.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>F/Sgt G. Thom RCAF</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt B. Strange</i>
<i>Observer</i>	<i>Sgt N. Gorfunkle</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>Sgt H.R. White RCAF</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt D.J.P. McBride RNZAF</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt L.W. Horne</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt D.L. Reed</i>

The ATA of the aircraft at RAF Linton on Ouse, North Yorkshire was 0012 Hrs.

18 Bomber Command aircraft; 39 Halifax's, 31 Lancaster's, 23 Stirling's and 95 Wellington's took part in this Op. 1 Lancaster, 1 Stirling and 2 Wellington's were lost.

The PFF encountered severe Haze over the target and as a result, marking was late. The raid was ineffective and only limited damage was inflicted.

Three 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target, all returned safely to base. For unknown reasons, two unidentified Halifax's did not depart.



Operation No 4

07th – 08th November 1942: Halifax Mk II DT515 MP-T

This particular aircraft was one of a batch built and delivered to the RAF by the English Electric Company, Salmesbury, Preston, Lancashire.

The crew were amongst Eight 76 Sqn crews briefed to attack Genoa. The ATD of the aircraft from RAF Linton on Ouse, North Yorkshire was 1702 Hrs.

Whilst crossing the French Coast, it was engaged by Flak units, hit and severely damaged. Unable to proceed further, the aircraft was abandoned near Chaumont, France.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>F/Sgt G. Thom RCAF POW</i>
<i>Flight Engineer</i>	<i>Sgt H.W. Owen POW</i>
<i>Observer</i>	<i>Sgt N. Gorfunkle Inj (DoI Age 22)</i>
<i>Bomb Aimer</i>	<i>Sgt H.J.R. White RCAF POW</i>
<i>Wireless Operator</i>	<i>Sgt D.J.P. McBride RNZAF POW</i>
<i>Mid Upper Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt L.W. Horne Evd</i>
<i>Rear Gunner</i>	<i>Sgt D.L. Reed POW</i>

Sgt Gorfunkle was critically injured and died within hours of being admitted to Hospital.

175 Bomber Command aircraft; 45 Halifax's, 85 Lancaster's, 39 Stirling's and 6 Wellington's took part in this Op. 4 Halifax's, 1 Lancaster and 1 Wellington were lost.

This was a very concentrated raid subsequently confirmed by bomb release imagery.

Six 76 Sqn aircraft attacked and bombed the target. One aircraft, Halifax, X MP-P did not depart due to a U/S Starboard Engine. On return, both Halifax DT492 MP-H & a second unidentified aircraft "D" landed at RAF Manston, Kent. Halifax DT575 MP-Y landed at RAF Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire, Halifax DT556 MP-A landed at RNAS Ford, West Sussex.

Halifax DT515 MP-T failed to return.